

tudinally grooved. Polypes clustered together on all sides of the ends of the branches, forming an ovate-lanceolate group or thyrses. Polype-cell cylindrical, with a subglobular head when the polype is contracted.

1. *Verrilliana ramosa*. (*Alcyonium ramosum*, Quoy & Gaim. Voy. Astrol. iv. 275, t. 23. f. 8-11. *Ammonothea ramosa*, M.-Edw.)  
Hab. New Granada (Quoy).

2. *Verrilliana thyrsoides*. (*Ammonothea thyrsoides*, Ehrenb. & *Nephthya thyrsoidea*, Verrill.)  
Hab. Red Sea (Ehr.); Cape of Good Hope (Verrill).

## Fam. 12. *Paralcyoniadæ*.

Coral membranaceous, branched above, smooth, with minute dermal spicules near the mouths of the polypes; the bodies of the polypes opening into each other, making a common cavity. The coral retractile into a tubular sheath covered with large dermal spicules. Tentacles retractile.

PARALCYONIUM, M.-Edw. (*Alcyonidia*, M.-Edw. 1835.)

*Paralcyonium elegans*, M.-Edw. Corall. i. 130, t. 1 a. f. 1.  
(*Alcyonidia elegans*, M.-Edw. Ann. Sc. Nat. 1835, iv. t. 12, 13.)

Hab. Algiers.

## XX.—Notice of a Gigantic Species of *Batrachus* from the Seychelle Islands. By A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

THE British Museum has lately received, through Lieut.-Col. Playfair, the dried head of a gigantic Acanthopterygian Fish, which was captured by Swinburne Ward, Esq., H.M. Civil Commissioner for the Seychelles. To judge from the head, this fish appears to be equal in bulk to any of the species of *Histiophorus*, if, indeed, it does not exceed them in size. I was previously acquainted with this fish from a pair of jaws only, preserved in the British Museum for a long time; but I was unable to form any opinion from these fragments as regards the systematic position of the fish to which they belonged. Although one character of *Batrachus*, viz. prominent spines of the opercles, is absent, or at least not conspicuous in the head before me, its appearance and structure is that of the species of this genus; and as I do not know of a species to which it may be referred, I regard this fish as undescribed,

and it may be appropriately called *Batrachus gigas*. I may hope soon to supplement the following incomplete description by the acquisition of more perfect specimens.

The head is 26 inches broad (between the ends of the gill-covers), 21 inches long from the snout to the end of the opercle, or 16 inches to the occiput. It is depressed, with the eyes directed upwards, as in *Batrachus*, covered all over with comparatively small hard scales, the scale-pouches of the skin being also provided with minute scales. The crown of the head is flat, without ridges; the eyes ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide) are far apart ( $5\frac{2}{3}$  inches). The cleft of the mouth is enormous, about 16 inches wide, slightly obliquely directed upwards, with the lower jaw somewhat prominent. The jaws, vomer, and palatine bones are armed with broad bands of villiform teeth. The vomerine teeth form a semicircular disk, well separated from the palatine bands, which are tapering in front and behind, lancehead-shaped. The maxillary bone (10 inches long) becomes gradually broader towards its extremity, where it is 3 inches broad; it is entirely smooth. The præoperculum has its margin irregularly denticulated; and the denticulations at the rounded angle are much the strongest, perhaps the remnants of worn-off spines. The margins of the other opercles are smooth, but there are still traces of two spines on each operculum.

The jaws mentioned above are somewhat larger still than those of the head described; so that some individuals of this species must evidently attain an enormous size.

XXI.—*Descriptions of new Genera and Species of Tenebrionidae from Australia and Tasmania.* By FRANCIS P. PASCOE, F.L.S. &c.

[Continued from p. 45.]

[Plate XI.]

AFTER the following additions have been made to the genus *Adelium* of Kirby\*, there remain a few species, the types apparently of as many genera related to it, but differentiated by characters which will not allow them to be conjoined. We find that there are three characters which seem to belong without exception to the *Adelia*, viz. the tarsi tomentose beneath, their penultimate joints subbilobed, and the eyes transverse, narrow, and more or less impinged on by the antennary ridges; a secondary character, because there are cases in which it be-

\* Trans. Linn. Soc. xii. p. 420.